

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 14 are amended to recite that the atom transfer radical polymerization is conducted in the presence of a transition metal complex as a catalyst. Support is found, for example, in the second paragraph on page 31 and the second paragraph on page 32 of the specification.

I. Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Kawamura et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,919,158).

Applicants respectfully submit that the Kawamura et al does not disclose, teach or suggest the presently claimed invention.

Without conceding the merits of the rejection, claims 1 and 14 are amended herein to recite that the atom transfer radical polymerization is conducted in the presence of a transition metal complex as a catalyst. Kawamura et al does not disclose, teach or suggest this feature of the invention as recited in amended claims 1 and 14. Therefore, for at least this reason, Kawamura et al does not anticipate the present invention.

Since atom transfer radical polymerization is used for the formation of the graft polymer in the presently claimed invention, the distribution of the molecular weight of the graft polymer becomes narrower (i.e., the length of the graft polymer molecules becomes uniform), whereby unevenness in the substance attachment is suppressed. These effects are described in the second paragraph on page 31, and the Examples in the specification, namely a comparison between Examples 1 to 5 and Comparative Examples 1 and 2 at pages 56 to 60. Thus, the present

invention provides advantageous effects over the prior art. For this additional reason, the present invention is patentable over Kawamura et al.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §102 rejection.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

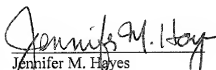
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